



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHANCERY OFFICE

146/148 North Front Street
P.O. Box 1823
Belize City, Belize, Central America
Telephone: 501-223-6919
Email: episkopos@btl.net

MESSGAE TO HEADS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DIOCESE OF BELIZE CITY AND BELMOPAN 17th August 2023

“For Catholics, and indeed for a great many Christians, the Eucharist is one of the most important and vital aspects of the faith.” I am taking a line from Fr. John F. Baldovin, S.J. article- EUCHARIST: THE MANY-FACETED JEWEL. If only we can all be sharers of the Eucharist! If only we can return to that joy and excitement of our First Holy Communion Mass?

The Apostles of Jesus said to him: “To whom shall we go, you have the word of everlasting life.” You, Jesus, have the Eucharist. You are the Eucharist! I believe that the successful mission and journey of the Apostles happened because they opened their hearts to be fed by the Lord. They remembered his word to them, when He told them that if they did not eat his flesh and drink his blood, they would not have life in him. They would be like a branch trying to survive apart from the vine. They would be like seeds sown on rocky soil.

Like the new apostles of Jesus, you who staff our Catholic Schools, and who attend our Catholic Schools cannot lose sight of the importance and the vital role that the Eucharist play in your lives as you give life to each other and to your schools. After hundreds of successful years of service in the field of education here in Belize, there is no need for others to ask the question of us Catholics: “What is your secret?” Your work and your journey cannot be successful apart from him who is your food. It is He who strengthens you when ‘you sail through rough waters’ during the school year. It is He, the Lord God, who gives you the words to speak when you are lost for words and need to defend yourself and your school.

You have been given another opportunity to begin a new school year, 2023-2024. Acknowledge the gift you are bringing to your school and the gift you have been given give it as a gift. As proprietor of your school, I expect only the best from you-the best in the Spiritual life and in the area of the academics.

I am proud of how you have made the effort to work together as a team, as a school family. As a team and as a family, you pray together, you share the Eucharist together, you play, you laugh. Together you have sacrificed, ask to go the extra mile, and at times to suffer together.

As we begin this new school year, I ask that you avail yourselves, your heart, to the working of God’s Holy Spirit who will guide you in all things. He who has begun this good work in you will surely bring it to completion.

May He, from whom all blessings flow, bless you and your school for the new academic year!
+Father, +Son and +Holy Spirit.

+ Lawrence S. Nicasio

Bishop of Belize City and Belmopan